

climate, just as the meteorologist does his observations of the atmosphere, and both of these students must be very careful about drawing hasty conclusions.

The preceding remarks are perhaps not inappropriate in connection with a letter recently received from our voluntary observer at Birdsnest, Northampton County, Va. In this letter Mr. C. R. Moore states that during the past fifty years the time of planting corn has been put back about a month, and moreover that the certainty of the peach crop has greatly decreased on account of the frequency of early frosts.

Those of our observers who have kept systematic records on this subject would do well to communicate directly with Prof. L. H. Bailey, Ithaca, N. Y., who makes a special study of phenology; meanwhile, we give Mr. Moore's letter in full:

At the request of my old friend, Prof. S. F. Baird, I began keeping the record of the weather in October, 1868, for the Smithsonian, after that for the Signal Service, and now for the Weather Bureau. My reports should all be in possession of the Government, as they were sent regularly on the 1st of each month, except it occurred on Sunday, when we have no mail. The storms are noted in all my reports by an X in front of the "Rain column," so that you can readily get them. In regard to the climate, it has materially changed in the last 60 years. When I came here from Philadelphia in 1867 I was told that when some of the older men were boys a man who had not finished corn planting by April Court (1st Monday) was behind. Now, if finished by May Court he is all in good time. This is not a fruit country I am sorry to say, but the old men claim that 60 years ago they had peaches every year. There were no orchards but only fruit for their own use. In 1879 I commenced setting out fruit trees. I have about 2,000, of which about 1,200 are apple trees; 200 peach; 400 plum, the rest pears, cherries, and quinces, and a few apricots. I knew that we did not have a crop of peaches more than once in five years, but I thought the apples especially would do, but they and all the rest are no better. Warm spells in February and March bring out the blossoms, and frosts in April kill them. This year a freeze, April 21 and 22, did much damage. I have never had an apricot. If the peaches blossom before April 15 we are not likely to have many. I have a memorandum of the date in which I saw the first peach blossom commencing with 1869. In 1870 my peach trees were in full bloom January 31 and we had no peaches. All the trees do well enough. You would hardly suppose that from our situation here. My place is on the seaside running east to the sounds and the Atlantic. The peninsula here is about 6 miles wide to the Chesapeake Bay on the west. My house is about one-half mile from the sounds, but we do have the frosts. The extremes of the weather here are: 100° on July 15, 1868, and + 2° on February 5, 1866; 100° on July 17, 1887; 102° on July 18, and + 2° on January, 1893.

PECULIAR MOUNTAIN STORMS.

Mr. Joseph H. Struble, of Uniontown, Pa., latitude 39° 45' N., longitude 79° 45' W., sends the following account of local storm phenomena, and the Editor, instead of attempting an explanation, based on too scanty data and too much theory, would lay the subject before his readers in hope that other observers in southwestern Pennsylvania and the neighboring portions of Maryland and West Virginia may contribute their own observations on this subject. Mr. Struble says:

We are located near the base of the Laurel Hill range of the mountain, and what we call eastern or mountain storms frequently occur here; the wind veers from north to east and works south to west. The wind lasts usually about forty-eight hours, and in the winter season nearly always ends in rain. Persons crossing from the eastern side of the mountain say no wind is noticed until coming down from the ridge or mountain top, and the storm rarely ever reaches 6 miles west from the base of the mountain, while along the base the storm may be raging in great fury. The oldest residents here can not give any satisfactory explanation of this strange phenomenon. The ridge of the mountain runs in a northerly and southerly direction. If you can give any correct or satisfactory explanation of the cause of these mountain storms, I will consider it a very great favor.

CIRRUS CLOUDS ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF A STORM.

Mr. G. W. Richards, of Maple Plain, Minn., calls attention in the Northwest Weather and Crops for February, 1896, to the fact that in his neighborhood there is generally a considerable storm passing northeastward through Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan, i. e., on his southeast side, when, ever, at his station, the sky is clear in the northwest, but cov-

ered with cirrus to the southeast, and when the cirrus clouds are moving from south-southeast to north-northeast, or south-west to northwest, while the surface winds are northerly. A good illustration of this condition occurred between December 17 and 20, 1895, when the cirrus clouds over the southeastern sky moved toward the northeast, while the light station winds blew from west-northwest and northeast. This seems to be equivalent to saying that storm centers have clear weather on their northwest sides beyond the region of cirrus clouds. The fact that the cirri move from southwest to northeast, or from west to east, has been generally held to prove that the storm as a whole drifts along with that upper current, but this view is not yet well established, and the difficulty of theorizing on such complex matters bids us suspend judgment and hope for the time when by an extension of our kite work the Weather Bureau may be able to present facts in the shape of a daily map of the conditions prevailing in the cloud region throughout the United States.

MEXICAN CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA.

Through the kind cooperation of Señor Mariano Bárcena, Director, and Señor José Zendejas, vice-director, of the Central Meteorológico-Magnetic Observatory, the monthly summaries of Mexican data are now communicated in manuscript, in advance of their publication in the *Boletín Mensual*; an abstract translated into English measures is here given in continuation of the similar tables published in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW during 1896. The altitudes occasionally differ from those heretofore published, but no reason has been assigned for these changes. The barometric means have not been reduced to standard gravity, but this correction will be given at some future date when the pressures are published on our Chart III.

Mexican data for May, 1897.

Stations.	Altitude.	Mean barometer.	Temperature.			Relative humidity.	Precipitation.	Prevailing direction.	
			Max.	Min.	Mean.			Wind.	Cloud.
Aguascalientes	Feet.	Inch.	° F.	° F.	° F.	%	Inch.		
Barousse (Coahuila) ..	5,413	23.80	85.6	54.3	69.8	39	1.18	ne.	e.
Carneros (Coahuila) ..	.....	.....	83.7	54.3	71.2	.....	2.30	.....	.....
Colima (Seminario) ..	1,656	28.27	81.5	54.1	68.7	.....	1.77	.....	.....
Colima .....	.....	.....	98.1	59.5	80.6	57	1.86	sw.	sw.
Durango	6,241	24.02	.....	.....	82.0	.....	.....	.....	.....
Leon	5,934	30.41	88.7	48.2	68.4	37	1.30	.....	w.
Linars	1,188	.....	91.0	49.6	71.8	40	1.73	sw.	.....
Magdalena (Sonora) ..	4,948	.....	97.7	59.9	75.6	.....	11.65	e.	.....
Merida	50	39.88	90.0	68.0	78.8	.....	0.08	sw.	n.
Mexico (Obs. Cent.) ..	7,478	33.07	101.8	64.8	82.0	62	0.25	ne.	w.
Monterrey	1,686	28.15	84.2	48.0	65.1	49	0.75	ne.	sw.
Morelia (Seminario) ..	6,401	33.97	89.5	59.0	77.9	65	3.19	ne.	ne.
Oaxaca	5,184	25.05	84.4	52.5	68.6	48	2.32	sw.	w.
Pachuca	7,956	22.57	82.5	50.4	73.2	65	4.96	sw.	ne.
Parras (Coahuila) ..	3,986	.....	94.0	40.1	60.1	49	0.18	nne.	ne.
Puebla (Col. Cat.) ..	7,112	33.38	92.8	63.0	74.5	.....	1.77	.....	.....
Queretaro	6,070	34.17	100.9	66.6	79.3	.....	2.28	.....	.....
Saltillo	5,399	24.78	85.6	50.0	68.5	60	2.06	e.	ne.
San Luis Potosí	6,202	24.13	89.1	51.8	70.2	44	0.61	e.	.....
Sierra Mojada (Coah.) ..	.....	.....	90.5	55.9	69.6	57	1.89	n.	sw.
Toluca	8,612	21.91	86.0	48.9	67.6	54	0.77	se.	w.
Torrón (Coahuila) ..	3,730	.....	89.8	55.6	78.1	.....	0.79	.....	.....
Vaqueria (Coahuila) ..	.....	.....	78.8	48.9	62.2	52	1.10	ne.	.....
Zacatecas	8,015	22.52	100.9	72.5	84.2	.....	0.89	.....	.....
Zapotlan (Seminario) ..	5,078	25.06	81.5	53.8	64.6	.....	2.26	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	82.4	48.5	65.5	43	1.72	ne.	s.
.....	.....	.....	91.4	51.6	75.6	41	1.16	ssc.	sw.

ANCHOR ICE.

The occurrence of anchor ice in European, and especially in Scotch rivers and lakes, as also in the rivers of New England, has been frequently recorded, but the first instance in our western country is recorded in the January report of the Montana Climate and Crop Service:

A curious phenomenon was witnessed on January 14, 1897, at the Black Eagle Falls of the Missouri River. For several hours the river ceased to flow, leaving the bed of the stream bare. Factories depending on water power were obliged to shut down. The cessation of the flow of water was due to anchor ice. When the temporary obstruction was overcome the water came down with a magnificent rush, leaping several feet over the edge of the dam.